

# Wisconsin Farm to School

Department of Agriculture, Trade and Consumer Protection

Tuesday | January 7, 2014

In today's Wisconsin Farm to School newsletter, you will find:

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Happy New Year from Wisconsin Farm to School! Thanks to amazing people like you, 2013 was a very big year for Wisconsin Farm to School. The U.S. Department of Agriculture released the first-ever Farm to School Census which showed that more than 50% of Wisconsin schools are engaging in farm to school activities, investing more than \$4 million dollars into local communities. And this is only the beginning.

We are very excited to see what 2014 will bring. We look forward to continuing to work with you to strengthen local economies by expanding markets for Wisconsin producers, promote children's health, and strengthen children's and communities' knowledge and attitudes surrounding agriculture and nutrition.

Cheers,

Sarah Elliott

## General Updates

### [Receive Technical Assistance to buy, sell local foods](#)

The [Wisconsin Local Food Technical Assistance Program](#) provides funding of up to \$3,000 for one-on-one technical assistance for Wisconsin food producers, schools purchasing

aggregator or food hub is eligible to apply. Projects may include, but are not limited to, local food recipe development, local food procurement planning, food safety planning/training, or legal services to help develop local purchasing bids or policies.

Visit the website to complete a brief web questionnaire. Questionnaires may be submitted between December 13, 2013 and February 15, 2014.

### **Conference Scholarship and Volunteer Application Available**

The 2014 National Farm to Cafeteria Conference scholarship and volunteer application is available on the conference website! The deadline for scholarship applications is January 31, 2014. In order to ensure the conference convenes the full diversity of farm to cafeteria constituents, the scholarship selection process will prioritize those who experience the greatest barriers to participation and will seek to ensure representation from all regions of the country. Also, this year, individuals who apply for scholarships will also commit to 1-2 volunteer shifts for the conference (those interested in volunteering in general will complete the same application). We can't wait to see you at the table at the [7th National Farm to Cafeteria Conference: Powering Up](#), taking place in Austin, Texas, April 15-18, 2014.

### **Serving Healthy School Meals: Kitchen Equipment Resources**

Today, the Kids' Safe and Healthful Foods Project released a report demonstrating that schools are working to serve healthy and appealing meals, but many could do so more efficiently and effectively if they had upgraded equipment and infrastructure. [Serving Healthy School Meals: U.S. schools need updated kitchen equipment](#) outlines districts' infrastructure and equipment challenges, and provides recommendations to help find ways to meet schools' needs.

### **Early Care Obesity Prevention Report**

Nemours recently published an issue brief profiling 15 Child and Adult Care Food Program (CACFP) providers and sponsors across the country to showcase different strategies being implemented to improve the nutritional quality of meals and snacks served through CACFP. The case studies range from small to large programs in rural, suburban and urban settings, in all regions of the country.

### **Nominees sought for Health Activist Awards Program**

We are excited to announce the [Third Annual WEGO Health Activist Awards Program](#) - a program to help you recognize the health leaders that you admire most. Take a moment now to nominate a handful of your favorite health bloggers, tweeters, geeks, and heroes. It only takes a minute or two to nominate, and you will be thanking someone for all they do every day.

## **Nominations Open for the John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize**

Nominations are being accepted until Dec. 31st for the John Kinsman Beginning Farmer Food Sovereignty Prize. Criteria for the prize include: engaged in own farm for less than 5 years, small scale livestock and/or vegetable and/or fruit farm, market products locally, practice sustainable management of natural resources, promote healthy soil, conserve biodiversity. For more information, or to submit a nomination by December 31st, contact John Peck at [familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com](mailto:familyfarmdefenders@yahoo.com) tel./fax: 608-608-0900.

## **Earth Day Network Seeking Entries for Healthy and Sustainable School Food Journalism Prize**

The [Earth Day Network](http://www.earthday.org) is accepting entries for the 2014 Healthy and Sustainable School Food Journalism Competition. The competition is designed to highlight the hard facts about school food in the words of students who eat it. Open to United States high school students between the ages of 13 and 18, all articles submitted for consideration must be about the importance of healthy, sustainable food served in school; what the student's school community is doing to combat climate change; and how the student's school is promoting environmental education. All articles must have been published by the participant's school newspaper. To enter, you must visit [www.earthday.org/journalismaward](http://www.earthday.org/journalismaward) and submit your publication online. The contest is open until February 28, 2014 and the winners will be announced on Earth Day – April 22, 2014!

# **Webinars, Conferences and Events**

## **Upcoming USDA Webinars: Finding, Buying and Serving Local Food**

Beginning in January 2014 through July 2014, the USDA Farm to School Program will host two webinars each month to showcase the variety of ways school districts can purchase local foods. The webinars will be held at 2:00 p.m. Eastern Time on the second and fourth Thursdays of the month. Topics will include everything from procurement basics to using geographic preference, finding local producers, and buying local through DoD Fresh. Stay tuned for more information and how to register.

## **The 8th Annual Wisconsin Local Food Summit**

January 31st and February 1st, 2014, at MATC-Downtown in Milwaukee.

## **Healthy Food for All Summit: Enhancing Health & Equitable Access in Wisconsin**

Mark your calendars for UW-Extension's Healthy Food for All Summit on Thursday, March 27th in Neenah, Wisconsin.

### **Extension + Farm to School Webinar Recordings Now Online**

This fall, USDA hosted three webinars to feature various ways Cooperative Extension professionals are supporting farm to school. Recordings from these three webinars are now available online. The webinars featured presentations from Extension professionals in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, and Ohio, as well as two presentations from professionals at FoodCorps and the Appalachian Sustainable Agriculture Project about how they are collaborating with Extension to support farm to school.

**Next EdWeb Webinar** Tuesday, January 7, 2014 – 4pm / Eastern Time

#### **Tools to Create Social Change Through Youth Farming and Gardening**

Presented by: Greg Gale, Associate Director of Programs, VISIONS and Training Consultant, The Food Project, with Johanna Gilligan, Founder and Executive Director, Grow Dat Youth Farm

**Cover Crops And Crop Insurance - What's the Connection? Webinar** January 23rd, 2014, 2:00pm - 3:30pm EST ([Register here](#))

The National Center for Appropriate Technology (NCAT) and the National Sustainable Agriculture Coalition (NSAC) will host a [national webinar on January 23, 2014](#). The webinar will address the important question: when and how can you terminate your cover crops and not risk losing crop insurance coverage of cash crops that follow?

## **Farm to School Media Mentions**

**A growing effort: School gardens, 'Harvest of the Month' feature part ...** ...  
The Country Today

**Local farmer donates cranberries to schools, pantries**  
Wisconsin Rapids Tribune

**USDA Farm-to-School Grant Awarded to Bayfield Regional Food ...**  
The Daily Press, Ashland WI online

**State offers help through local food program**  
La Crosse Tribune

## **Farm to School Funding Opportunities**

**Madison Food Policy Council Launches 2014 SEED Grants**

new and recently emerging projects or programs that support access to healthy food in our community. The Madison Food Policy Council is encouraging any organization, group, or agency to apply that are devoted to making food more accessible. Any proposal that improves the local food system will be considered. The maximum of any one grant will be limited to \$10,000.

#### **American Honda Foundation Invites Applications for Youth Education Programs**

Deadline: February 1, 2014

The Foundation is accepting applications from nonprofit organizations and schools for programs or projects that support the teaching of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

#### **Lowe's Charitable and Education Foundation Announces 2014 Toolbox for Education Grant Program**

Deadline: February 14, 2014

Grants of up to \$5,000 will be awarded in support of facility improvement projects that have a permanent impact on a K-12 school community.

#### **USDA Announces Notice of Funding Availability for Value-Added Producer Grants**

Grant Application Deadline: February, 24, 2014

Grants are available to help agricultural producers create new products, expand marketing opportunities, support further processing of existing products or goods, or to develop specialty and niche products.

FOR MORE INFORMATION, contact DATCP's Sarah Elliott at 608-224-5046 or [sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov](mailto:sarah.elliott@wisconsin.gov).



STAY CONNECTED:

